

100 Words G - L

gam•ete (gām'ēt', gə-mēt') *n.* A reproductive cell having the haploid number of chromosomes, esp. a mature sperm or egg capable of fusing with a gamete of the opposite sex to produce the fertilized egg. [NLat. *gameta* < Gk. *gametē*, wife and *gametēs*, husband < *gamein*, to marry < *gamos*, marriage.] —**ga•met'ic** (-mēt'ik) *adj.*

gauche (gōsh) *adj.* Lacking social polish; tactless. [Fr., awkward < OFr. < *gauchir*, to turn aside, walk clumsily, of Gmc. orig.] —**gauche'ly** *adv.* —**gauche'ness** *n.*

ger•ry•man•der (jēr'ē-mān'dər, gēr'-) *tr.v.* -dered, -der•ing, -ders To divide (a geographic area) into voting districts so as to give unfair advantage to one party in elections. ♦ *n.* 1. The act, process, or an instance of gerrymandering. 2. A district or configuration of districts differing widely in size or population because of gerrymandering. [After Elbridge GERRY + (SALA)MANDER (< the shape of an election district created while Gerry was governor of MA).]

he•gem•o•ny (hī-jēm'ə-nē, hēj'ə-mō'nē) *n., pl. -nies* The predominant influence, as of a state, region, or group, over another or others. [Gk. *hēgemoniā* < *hēgemōn*, leader < *hēgeisthai*, to lead.] —**heg'e•mon'ic** (hēj'ə-mōn'ik) *adj.* —**he•gem'o•nism** *n.* —**he•gem'o•nist** *adj. & n.*

USAGE NOTE *Hegemony* may be stressed on either the first or second syllable, though 72 percent of the Usage Panel prefers the latter.

he•mo•glo•bin (hē'mə-glō'bīn) *n.* The iron-containing respiratory pigment in red blood cells of vertebrates, consisting of about 6 percent heme and 94 percent globin. [Ult. short for *hematoglobulin* : HEMATIN + GLOBULIN.]

ho•mo•ge•ne•ous (hō'mə-jē'nē-əs, -jēn'yəs) *adj.* 1. Of the same or similar nature or kind. 2. Uniform in structure or composition. 3. *Mathematics* Consisting of terms of the same degree or elements of the same dimension. [< Med.Lat. *homogeneous* < Gk. *homogenēs* : *homo-*, homo- + *genos*, kind; see HETEROGENEOUS.] —**ho'mo•ge•ne•ous•ness** *n.*

hu•bris (hyōō'brīs) also **hy•bris** (hī'-) *n.* Overbearing pride or presumption; arrogance. [Gk., excessive pride, wanton violence. See **ud-** in App.] —**hu•bris'tic** (-brīs'tik) *adj.* —**hu•bris'tic•al•ly** *adv.*

hy•pot•e•nuse (hī-pōt'n-ōōs', -yōōs') also **hy•poth•e•nuse** (-pōth'ə-nōōs', -nyōōs') *n.* The side of a right triangle opposite the right angle. [Lat. *hypotēnūsa* < Gk. *hupoteinousa* < fem. pr. part. of *hupoteinein*, to stretch or extend under : *hupo-*, hypo- + *teinein*, to stretch; see **ten-** in App.]

im•peach (īm-pēch') *tr.v.* -peached, -peach•ing, -peach•es 1a. To accuse. b. To charge (a public official) with improper conduct in office before a proper tribunal. 2. To challenge the validity of; try to discredit: *impeach one's credibility*. [ME *empechen*, to impede, accuse < AN *empecher* < LLat. *impedicāre*, to entangle : Lat. *in-*, in; see **IN-** + Lat. *pedica*, fetter; see **ped-** in App.] —**im•peach'er** *n.* —**im•peach'ment** *n.*

in•cog•ni•to (īn'kōg-nē'tō, īn-kōg'nī-tō') *adv. & adj.* With one's identity disguised or concealed. ♦ *n., pl. -tos* 1. One whose identity is disguised or concealed. 2. The condition of having a disguised or concealed identity. [Ital. < Lat. *incognitus*, unknown : *in-*, not; see **IN-** + *cognitus*, p. part. of *cognōscere*, to learn, recognize; see **COGNITION**.]

in•con•tro•vert•i•ble (īn-kōn'trə-vūr'tə-bəl, īn'kōn-) *adj.* Impossible to dispute; unquestionable. —**in•con'tro•vert'ī•bil'ity** *n.* —**in•con'tro•vert'ī•bly** *adv.*

in•cul•cate (īn-kŭl'kāt', īn'kŭl-) *tr.v.* -cat•ed, -cat•ing, -cates 1. To impress (something) upon the mind of another by frequent instruction or repetition; instill: *inculcating sound principles*. 2. To teach (others) by frequent instruction or repetition; indoctrinate. [Lat. *inculcāre*, *inculcāt-*, to force upon : *in-*, on; see **IN-** + *calcāre*, to trample (< *calx*, *calc-*, heel).] —**in'cul•ca'tion** *n.* —**in•cul'ca'tor** *n.*

in•fra•struc•ture (īn'frə-strŭk'chər) *n.* 1. An underlying base or foundation, esp. for an organization or a system. 2. The basic facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of a community or society, such as transportation and communications systems.

in•ter•po•late (īn-tŭr'pə-lāt') *v.* -lat•ed, -lat•ing, -lates —*tr.* 1. To insert or introduce between other elements or parts. 2a. To insert (material) into a text. b. To insert into a conversation. 3. To change or falsify (a text) with new or incorrect material. 4. *Mathematics* To estimate a value of (a function or series) between two known values. —*intr.* To make insertions or additions. [Lat. *interpolāre*, *interpolāt-*, to touch up, refurbish < *interpolis*, refurbished. See **pel-** in App.] —**in•ter'po•la'tion** *n.* —**in•ter'po•la'tive** *adj.* —**in•ter'po•la'tor** *n.*

i•ro•ny (ī'rə-nē, ī'r-) *n., pl. -nies* 1a. The use of words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal meaning. b. An expression or utterance marked by irony. c. A literary style employing irony for humorous or rhetorical effect. 2a. Incongruity between what might be expected and what actually occurs. b. An occurrence, result, or circumstance notable for such incongruity. See Usage Note at **ironic**. 3. Dramatic irony. 4. Socratic irony. [Fr. *ironie* < OFr. < Lat. *īrōnīa* < Gk. *eirōneia*, feigned ignorance < *eirōn*, dissembler, prob. < *eirein*, to say. See **wer-** in App.]

je•june (jə-jōōn') *adj.* 1. Not interesting; dull. 2. Lacking maturity; childish. 3. Lacking in nutrition. [< Lat. *iēiūnus*, meager, dry, fasting.] —**je•june'ly** *adv.* —**je•june'ness** *n.*

ki•net•ic (kə-nēt'ik, kī-) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or produced by motion. 2. Relating to or exhibiting kinesiology. [Gk. *kinētikos* < *kinētos*, moving < *kīnein*, to move. See **kei-** in App.] —**ki•net'ic•al•ly** *adv.*

kow•tow (kou-tou', kou'tou') *intr.v.* -towed, -tow•ing, -tows 1. To kneel and touch the forehead to the ground in expression of deep respect, worship, or submission, as formerly done in China. 2. To show servile deference. ♦ *n.* 1. The act of kneeling and touching the forehead to the ground. 2. An obsequious act. [< Chin. (Mandarin) *kòu tóu*, a kowtow : *kòu*, to knock + *tóu*, head.]

lais•sez faire also **lais•ser faire** (lēs'ā fār', lā'zā) *n.* 1. An economic doctrine that opposes governmental regulation of or interference in commerce. 2. Noninterference in the affairs of others. [Fr. : *laissez*, let + *faire*, to do.] —**lais'sez-faire'** *adj.*

lex•i•con (lēk'sī-kōn') *n., pl. -cons* or **-ca** (-kə) 1. A dictionary. 2. A stock of terms used in a particular profession, subject, or style; a vocabulary. 3. *Linguistics* The morphemes of a language considered as a group. [Med.Lat. < Gk. *lexikon* (*biblion*), word(book), neut. of *lexikos*, of words < *lexis*, word < *legein*, to speak. See **leg-** in App.]

lo•qua•cious (lō-kwā'shəs) *adj.* Very talkative; garrulous.
[< Lat. *loquāx*, *loquāc-* < *loqui*, to speak.] —**lo•qua'cious•ly** *adv.*
—**lo•qua'cious•ness**, **lo•quac'i•ty** (lō-kwās'i-tē) *n.*

lu•gu•bri•ous (lōō-gōō'brē-əs, -gyōō'-) *adj.* Mournful, dismal,
or gloomy, esp. to an exaggerated or ludicrous degree. [< Lat. *lū-*
gubris < *lūgēre*, to mourn.] —**lu•gu'bri•ous•ly** *adv.* —**lu•**
gu'bri•ous•ness *n.*

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